

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES
MEETING MINUTES OF
January 24, 2005

Present: Berger, Bunker, Chair Cooney, Fort, Gwynne, Longley-Cook, McCoy, McGaughey,
Absent/Excused: Chadow, McCoy

Guests: Anne Steiner

1. **MINUTES:** The minutes of December 6, 2004 were approved with the following corrections: 1) Oral Communications, Item #3 – change “Commissioner Ed Cooney stated that AC transit buses are not able to align with the bus stop location due to the existing metered parking space.” to “Commissioner Ed Cooney stated that AC transit buses are not able to align with the bus stop location on Santa Clara Avenue fronting City Hall due to the existing metered parking space.” and 2) Oral Communications, Item #5 – change “Commissioner Steffens stated that a chair should be provided in the City Clerk’s Office front counter area for refuge if needed.” to “Commissioner Elaine McCoy stated that a chair should be provided in the City Clerk’s Office front counter area for refuge if needed.”

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

1. February agenda item - Commissioner Charles Bunker will inform the Commission on the status of the Disaster Plan.
2. February agenda item - Commissioner Gina McGaughey would like a status on the Webster Street Renaissance project. It was requested that temporary sidewalk relocations and barrier locations during construction take into consideration the visually impaired. Secretary to follow up.
3. Commissioner Angela Steffens asked if the City has a policy on sidewalk solicitation policy as in one instance it resulted in accessibility problem.
4. A motion carried that Old Business, Item #1, Election of Vice-Chair be taken out of order.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Election of Vice-Chair:** Commissioner James Gwynne was elected Vice-Chair.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Audible Signal Grant:**

The secretary informed the Commission that the Public Works Department is applying for a grant application for audible traffic signal equipment and requested the Commissions' backing. A letter supporting the grant application was approved. Commissioner Gina McGaughey expressed her concern that push buttons be located at the curb crosswalk, not distant from the crossing, so as not to impede the visually impaired or wheelchair/walker users. Guest Anne Steiner suggested that the grant application make reference to inter-model transportation. Should the City obtain the grant, the Commission would like to review any proposed locations and design.

2. **Committee Bylaw Change:**

A motion failed to change the current bylaw term limits for the Chair and Vice-Chair from "one (1) year term or until successors are appointed" to "two (2) consecutive one (1) year terms. It was mentioned that officers are elected, not appointed as stated in the bylaws. Secretary will follow up.

3. **Policy Research, Writing and Implementation:**

A motion carried to establish a sub-committee to address policy. Sub-committee members are Commissioners Ed Cooney, Charles Bunker, James Gwynne, Steve Fort, and Gina McGaughey. The Commission approved a letter from Chair Ed Cooney to Mayor Johnson on the City's ability to procure accessibility assistance to disabled citizens attending City meetings and hearings (i.e. Braille, speech/hearing impaired interpreters). Secretary informed the Commission that the Public Works staff is meeting with other City staff to establish a plan and would welcome any information from the Commissioners (i.e. Braille transcriber, interpreter contacts).

OLD BUSINESS:

2. **Alameda Journal Calendar:**

Secretary informed the Commissioners that agenda's are provided to the Alameda Journal. A Commissioner stated that the City's CATV channel has Room 360 listed for meetings and should be changed to Room 391. Secretary will follow up.

3. **Oak Street City Hall Entrance:** Secretary informed the Committee that the kick plate door openers at the Oak Street Alameda City Hall door are functioning. A Commissioner stated that the toe kick plate only operates if pressed at a certain location. Secretary will follow up.
4. **City Hall Bus Stop:** Secretary informed the Commission that Public Works is continuing to resolve the accessibility to the bus stop in front of City Hall (blockage by a metered parking space). A Commissioner stated that the existing bench location might also hinder accessibility.
5. **Breakers at Bayport 64-unit development:** Secretary will provide status on the Breakers at Bayport 64-unit development. Secretary has not seen any plans. Will report at February meeting.
6. **Lower Washington Park Parking Accessible Parking Stall:** Secretary informed the Commission that the addition of a disabled parking stall at lower Washington Park adjacent to the dog park will need to go before the Transportation Technical Team (TTT), possible on February agenda. Commissioner James Gwynne stated that the existing two disabled spaces need to be restriped to conform to the latest ADA standards. Secretary is aware.
7. **City Clerk's Office Reception Area Seating:** The secretary investigated Commissioner Stephen's observation of the need for a chair in the reception area of the City Clerk's office. Due to space limitation in the reception area, at the secretary's request, the Public Works Maintenance staff fabricated a sign "seating available upon request" which will be displayed at the front counter. The Commission found this to be an acceptable solution and suggested that similar signs be placed in other departments where permanent guest seating cannot be provided.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 9:20p.m. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, February 28th in Room 391, City Hall.

Sincerely,

Matthew T. Naclerio
Public Works Director

By: Ed Sommerauer
Associate Civil Engineer

ES:lc

G:\PUBWORKS\LT\MCD Disability Committee\2005\0124min.doc